Integrating Critical Thinking Skills into the Exploration of Culture in an EFL Setting

## Course overview

Exploration of culture in an EFL setting requires helping students engage in authentic situations to develop the ability to navigate across a variety of cultures. This intercultural ability requires language choices and awareness of oneself as a cultural being. It also requires critical thinking skills, which are themselves culturally defined. Using experiential learning as the organizational model, this course will engage participants in analyzing personal experiences, media, EFL textbooks, and classrooms to develop the capacity to think critically about the cultural assumptions and viewpoints embedded in their teaching content and process. After examining themselves as cultural beings and assessing learners' needs and goals, participants will develop a concrete teaching lesson that reflects their view of teaching critical thinking and intercultural competence in their particular context.

## **Educational Objectives**

By the end of the eight-week course, participants will be able to:

- Define the dimensions of culture and critical thinking as they pertain to teaching in their context;
- Develop an increased understanding of critical thinking, experiential learning, and intercultural learning skills and the connections between them;
- Further develop their ability to learn and teach intercultural competence and critical thinking by applying observation, inquiry, multiple perspective analysis, and self-reflection to their exploration of cultural phenomena;
- Further develop their ability to learn and teach intercultural skills of active listening and empathy;
- · Critically analyze EFL textbooks' treatment of culture;
- · Develop their own assumptions about the teaching of culture in their context;
- · Create lesson plans which integrate cultural learning and critical thinking;
- · Reflect on, and critically analyze, their lessons.

## Spring Term 2018 application deadline: January 18, 2018

Name (As listed on passport)			
	Given Name	(Middle Name)	Family Name
Country of Residence			

Are you a citizen of your country of residence?	☐ Yes ☐ No	•	be living in your country ne AE E-Teacher course?	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Email Address (Please use your <i>own</i> email address.)						
Phone Number						
[country code][area code] [local number]	For example, [1][55	5][1234567	]			
Term	⊠ Sprin	g 2018	(April 03, 2018 Start Date	e)		
What do you do? (Check as many boxes as apply)						
☐ In-service Teacher (Primary)		$\square$ Ministry of Education Official				
☐ In-service Teacher (Secondary)		☐ Administrator				
☐ Pre-service Teacher		☐ Principal				
☐ Tutor		☐ Curriculum Developer				
☐ English Access Microscholarship Program Teacher		☐ University Professor				
☐ English Access Microscholarship Program Administrator		☐ University Lecturer				
☐ Other						
Culture in an EFL Setting" (t Albania, Bosnia and Herzego	aught by World Lea ovina, Bulgaria, Czed	rning) cour ch Republic	Thinking Skills into the Explores only. Participants will be e (Czechia), Croatia, Estonia, Had, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia,	xclusively from: ungary, Kosovo,		

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Questions? Contact us: ivanovaih@state.gov



## **E-Teacher Program Application**

<b>Statement of Purpose</b> : Please explain your reasons for wanting to participate in the courses you selected. What impact will your participation in this program have on your institution, or region, and how do you expect to use the knowledge acquired in this course?							
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How will you share the information you will learn with your colleagues after the completion of the course? (Check as many boxes as apply)							
☐ Presentation ☐ Co	nferences	☐ Other	·				
☐ Workshops ☐ Dis	tributing material						
Please assess your present English language proficiency. (select one)							
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
Understanding of written English	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair				
Expressing yourself in written English	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair				
Please assess your computer skills. (select or	ne) 🗆 Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair ☐ None				
Please respond to the following questions by selecting one of the boxes.							
I have taken an online course before	☐ Yes ☐ No						
I have regular and reliable access to high-spe	☐ Yes ☐ No						
I commit to spending 10 to 12 hours online e course to participate in this course.	ach week for the du	ration of the 8-we	eek 🗆 Yes 🗆 No				

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